



KASL News

Vol. 3 No. 1

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Tangled Web
Martha House
Council Grove High School

School Librarians are not listed under “Classroom Instruction” in the Post Audit Survey sent to all Superintendents. We are listed as “Other” at the bottom of the list. The legislature wants 65% of district budgets to go toward Classroom Instruction. SO, despite the fact that each of us holds a teaching certificate issued by the state of Kansas and many of us are more highly educated and experienced than most of the people in our buildings, what we do is not counted as “Classroom Instruction.”

Those of you who follow the discussion on the KASL e-mail list know what happened when we began to try to discuss this problem with people who might be able to make a change for the better. When I e-mailed the State Treasurer, she promptly wrote back and said that I should contact the Legislative Post Auditor and Representative John Edmonds, Chair of the Legislative Post-Audit committee. I e-mailed them and almost immediately received a reply from Barb Hinton, the Legislative Post Auditor. She said, “I understand the point you are trying to make about the value of librarians, but the classification we used was not something we came up with on our

own. We used the classifications established and used by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. NCES requires all states--including Kansas--to report their expenditures under these ‘functional’ classifications, and all their published statistics are based on these classifications. In order for our figures to be comparable to the figures published by NCES and the U.S. DOE, we have to use those classifications.”

Hmmmm. So this is a FEDERAL thing. Great. The Federal government is dealing with fifty separate states, all with different standards for what they require in their school libraries. Some have very low standards indeed. A couple of questions popped into my mind at this point. The first is, “Must Kansas standards of what is required in our school libraries be dragged down to the lowest common denominator?” and the second is, “Do most Kansas legislators really understand how the classroom instruction category is defined and why?” Perhaps it’s time to gently explain it to them.

When I wrote my initial letters to my legislators, to the State Treasurer, and to the Legislative Post Auditor, I was very impressed by the prompt, helpful, even kind replies that I received. Maybe I’m being naïve, but I really don’t think most people have it in for school libraries, though I do realize that there is probably a small group who considers them a waste of tax dollars. However, from the small sample of people I talked to, I felt that they were actually fond of their school libraries and wished to support them. Surprisingly, I found the whole exercise of writing and talking to people encouraging!

I’m not ready to give up yet. I still think there are some things we can do to influence policy. As an organization, KASL has a link to AASL in Janice Ostrom, who is the AASL Region IX Director. She has visited with the AASL office and also forwarded

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From your KASL President.....

As fall approaches and classes resume, we've already begun the transition from the freedom of summer to the challenging routine of the school year. While the daily demands on our time are increasing rapidly, it is helpful to remember that, as school librarians, we have many valuable resources available to help us with our responsibilities. Not only do we have the opportunity to work with motivated colleagues and students excited for a new year, but we also have KASL, which is a wonderful support group ready and willing to help us with the challenges a new school year brings.

On Friday, August 12, eighteen KASL members and guests attended a special planning meeting in Wichita for KASL committees. It was amazing what was accomplished in this afternoon session and the true dedication of KASL members! This session allowed time for committees to meet in person and collaborate with other committees. The truly exciting part was that our committees seemed to be in sync with one another and worked toward common goals focused on addressing issues we must all confront as school librarians.

Our August Council meeting resulted in an updated plan for advocacy which will target working with teachers this coming year. Rather than overwhelming teachers with information telling them how great we are, we will, instead, be providing guides and activities which will help us show them how great we are!!! By demonstrating our value, it will prove the adage that "actions speak louder than words".

Our Intellectual Freedom committee wants to support those who are battling censorship and is seeking information from those who have been involved with challenged materials. They hope to be responsive to concerns and provide you with information that relates our constitutional rights to administration and community members.

We are also very happy to be instituting a mentorship program to give our members a chance to interact with one another in a supportive way. If you think back to how you first became involved in KASL, you probably can remember the person(s) who nudged you along. We are setting up a line of communication between new members and experienced members. This will be yet another way that KASL can help provide immediate support to our membership. Please check out the article on the Professional Partners Program and become involved!

At the June Affiliate Assembly in Chicago, the Legislative Committee announced its 2006 program and an upcoming regular column in Knowledge Quest. Statements of Concern which were accepted by the Assembly include a) funding, b) currency of national standards, c) impact of the LMC program on student learning, and d) apathy in ALA elections.

Last, but not least, our district workshops are ready and waiting for you to attend. I hope to see you there!

Linda Roberts

Greetings from your President-Elect . . .

My little school library is just a bunch of books without kids there to read them, so I was very glad to see real, live teenagers pouring in yesterday morning. Of course, everything isn't quite as neatly arranged as it was over the summer, but students are connecting with books. Helping make those connections is why I am in the library to begin with.

As you make connections with students and teachers in your own libraries, you might want to consider building your own professional connections. Nurture yourself by attending a KASL district workshop this fall. I know sometimes I feel rather isolated in my school. We could all benefit by the experience and expertise of others, and attending a district workshop is a great way to do that, so plan to attend just one. You can venture out of district if you are feeling adventurous or even, gasp, attend more than one!

It's not too early to begin planning to attend Tri-Conference in Wichita, April 5-7, 2006. The KASL Showcase and luncheon will feature Angela Johnson, author of *The First Part Last*, winner of the 2004 Printz award. She is the author of several picture books and highly acclaimed novels for young readers, including *Maniac Monkeys on Magnolia Street* and two Coretta Scott King Award winners: *Heaven* and *Toning the Sweep*. The General Session speaker will be Alan November, author of *Empowering Students With Technology*. You can find links to more information on the KASL website at <http://www.kasl.ws>. Costs will be \$65 for the entire conference if you pre-register before mid-March. The conference hotel is the Hyatt Regency: single occupancy, \$105; double occupancy, \$105; triple occupancy, \$125; and quadruple occupancy, \$125. Also plan on a 13.3% tax. The Tri-Conference mailing will be small this year, most likely postcard sized, so keep your eyes open for it. The postcard will direct you to the web where you can register or download a .pdf registration form.

As Tri-Conference Program Planner, I will be diligently seeking out presenters. If you have ideas about topics that you would like to see covered or recommendations for effective presentations, please let me know. Also, don't forget to consider presenting your own pet project or best practice at Tri-Conference. The proposal form should be online as you read this, and I will inform everyone on the list just as soon as that link is up and running. Nancy Polette's publisher wants to send her to Tri-Conference, and I have e-mailed her, and she is reserving those dates on her calendar. I have also corresponded with Mary Peace Finley, author of *Meadow Lark*, winner of the Colorado Book Award. Jackie Lakin has already expressed an interest in doing something on the 8th grade technology assessments, and her team has been working hard to integrate Kansas Library Media standards with the assessed indicators for math, reading, social studies, science and writing.

KASL is committed to promoting school libraries and providing the means for you to develop as a professional. We have developed a certificate that will be available at the district workshops. Plan to pick one up, have it signed, and submit it with your PDC verification when you go home.

Feel free to e-mail me any time with helpful suggestions or any questions you might have.

Have a great year and let KASL know how we can help you.

Martha House

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Joe's Nonfiction Book Nook

Joe Amos
Blue Valley North High School

Editor's Note: This is one of the new regular features where we will review books that you might consider for a school library. Please keep in mind that what might work in my library might not work or be considered appropriate in your library. I will be reviewing nonfiction books each issue. I am starting with the Dewey 900s this issue and will work backwards through the Dewey range. So in the Fall look for a review of an 800 book. When I have other books of that Dewey Range I can recommend I will list them at the bottom of the review. We hope you enjoy these. If you have read the reviewed book and have different feelings than I shared, please feel free to e-mail me and we will include your thoughts in the next issue. As always, please let me know if you have any suggestions.

Esselman, M. D. & Vélez, E. A. (Eds.). (2005). *You drive me crazy: Love poems for real life*. New York: Warner Books. 178 pages. ISBN: 0446692727 \$10.36.

The 800 range in Dewey covers a wide range of texts. I read humor ([Southern Fried Divorce: A Woman Unleashes Her Hound and His Dog in the Big Easy](#) by Judy Conner) and satire ([A Modest Proposal and Other Prose](#) [Library of Essential Reading Series], various authors) but the most enjoyable book I read was [You Drive Me Crazy: Love Poems for Real Life](#) with co-editors Mary D. Esselman and Elizabeth Ash Vélez.

These are poems about the road bumps in a life's love. This isn't the book you want to read cute loving poems where love is always easy and always triumphs. Honestly, in this book, love usually triumphs, but it is never easy. This book reveals the challenges of love growing old, hurting love, divided love, uncertain love and thwarted love. While love may drive the poets crazy, throughout the book there is the theme of hopeful love.

The large majority of poets in this collection are 20th Century poets. There are the old standbys such as Shakespeare, Emily Dickerson and e.e. cummins. But the book is filled with new poets such as Carolyn Creedon, Sam Holtzapple, and Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx, more known for their Tony Award winning Broadway musicals.

All the poems in this book are short and to the point. Some are edited or excerpts from longer works such as Shakespeare's Henry V. While there are exceptions very few are longer than half to three-quarters of a page.

They would be great short poems for teachers to use as examples and keep student's attention.

What didn't I like? The main complaint I had was a long, somewhat boring introduction for each section. Some of these sections were almost as long as the poems they introduced. These sections may be great for students learning about poetry and unwilling to attempt to interpret the poems themselves. Or, perhaps, a teacher would enjoy these sections to give them some thoughts to include in classroom discussions. However, when I read poetry I want to be able to interpret it based on my own experience, I don't want someone else telling me what I should think about a particular poem.

For some of you, a warning, there are poems about sex in this book. Many of them are so shrouded in the mysterious language of poetry students might not pick up on the real meaning (unless they read the introduction to that section). However, others are plain spoken, most very classy. But the "F word" does rear its ugly head once. Which I realize immediately eliminates this book for many of you. For the rest of you I would encourage you to get a copy and read it. It could be a book used by teachers and students alike.

Next month, we'll explore Dewey's world of the 700's so we will be delving into the arts!

Joe Amos

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Member News . . .

Sandy Norman moved to Jefferson City, MO and will be the High School librarian at South Callaway, a small district east and across the river.

Picture Perfect

Luana Lewis
Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary
El Dorado Public Schools USD 490

Even More Parts: Idioms from Head to Toe by Tedd Arnold. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN 0-8037-2938-3, hardcover (30 pages), \$15.99.

Tedd Arnold is beloved for his funny stories and his bug-eyed characters. Chip, the star of *Parts* and *More Parts*, is back with another literal interpretation of idioms. The author received so many suggestions from children that he just had to do another. As Chip prepares for school, he discovers even more idioms applying to his entire body. The ultimate school scene is a two-page spread featuring a teacher telling her class "All eyes on me." Of course, Chip pictures that idiom as every student's eyes leaping out of their head to attach themselves to the teacher.

The book features a running strip at the bottom of each page. The strip shows the reader three more idioms about that body part. Even the book jacket gets in on the act. Students will love the watercolor and pencil illustrations, laugh at the comedy, and learn about figures of speech at the same time.

Integrated activities with this book would be almost endless. One idea would be for students to create their own book of idioms, using Arnold's example as a guide. Language arts teachers, reading specialists, and ESL teachers would all appreciate this book.

Younger primary students will laugh at the pictures. Older primary students and above will benefit from the use of idioms. All ages will truly "laugh their heads off" at Arnold's 50th book. College bookstores such as B.Y.U. are stocking the Parts series, showing how truly age-defiant picture books can be.

Luana Lewis

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Kansas Critters: Mammals

The Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita is sponsoring the "Kansas Critters: Mammals" project.

The project encourages classes/schools to create a page about native animals of Kansas for inclusion in a book to be published by the Great Plains Nature Center. It's a great opportunity to combine science, writing, technology, and art standards.

Information is on the Great Plains Nature Center website [<http://www.gpnc.org/critters.htm>]

Share the Handy 5 Experience

By
Betsy Losey

The Handy 5 Marketing Committee is looking for some experiences you might have had in using the Handy 5 Problem Solving Model in your school. If you have been using the model please let us know your stories. We are interested in anything that can help other educators understand the benefits in using the model, how the children learn using the model and comments from other stakeholders in the process. If you have pictures of your classes involved in using the process we would also love to have copies. If you have posters, student work, etc. sharing pictures would be helpful to our project. Digital would be perfect. Also, if you have lessons that have worked well for you and would be willing to share we would appreciate a copy of the lesson plan and any additional materials used to support the lesson. We are looking for ideas to introduce or to reinforce using the Handy 5 Problem Solving Model across the state. Please send your stories or pictures to Betsy Losey at 410 West 16th, Hays, KS or e-mail at blosey@ruraltel.net.

Professional Development Literature

Betsy Losey
Hays, Kansas

Loertscher, David V., Carol Koechlin and Sandi Zwaan. *Ban those Bird Units 15 Models for Teaching and Learning in Information-rich and Technology-rich Environments*. Salt Lake City UT: Hi Willow Research & Publishing, 2004. ISBN 0-931510-89-9 (paperback, 208 pages) \$35.00.

If you are looking for help in developing lesson plans that support information literacy standards and encourage the use of technology take a look at this title. It will help you move from low-level activities to units that require higher level thinking skills and synthesizing information.

A “bird” unit follows a set pattern. The teacher provides basic information on a classroom topic. Textbook reading is assigned. The teacher provides a pre-designed worksheet for data collection. Students go to the library and/or computer lab and are introduced to a few resources. Students copy information to answer the basic questions. Students return to the classroom and papers are handed in for a grade.

Loertscher and company advocate re-designing activities so learners must think about and analyze the information they collect, increasing learning and achievement. The book provides models, sample units, forms, and links to popular educational practices, i.e. Understanding by Design, etc. The models work K-12 and across many disciplines. This title will work for teachers as well as library media specialists and will provide a background for planning collaborative units and doing professional development with teachers.

Betsy Losey
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Hurray for YA!

Terri Snethen
Blue Valley North High School

Meyer, Stephenie. *Twilight*. New York: Little, Brown & Company 2005. ISBN: 0316160172 hardcover (512 pages), \$17.99.

This month I decided to go with an new YA author. I don't usually enjoy vampire stories but I had heard some good things about this one and decided to give it a try. I was pleasantly surprised.

Isabella Swan moves to Forks, Washington to live with her father, who happens to be the chief of police. She is expecting to be miserable in this small town with never-ending rain. And she is, until she meets the most gorgeous creature she has ever laid eyes on, Edward Cullen. Not only is Edward beautiful, strong and mysterious but he and his family hide a terrible secret. Isabella soon realizes that Edward is a vampire; he thirsts for her blood; and she is in love with him. A relationship with Edward isn't just impossible, it is dangerous—for Bella, for Edward and all those who love them.

The author does a great job of translating typical teenage angst about school, love, and fear of rejection into a supernatural story full of suspense and romance. The ambiguous ending left me wanting more and I was glad to learn that this is the first book in a trilogy with the second installment due out next year. (Grades 8 and up).

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Young Adult Guru, Patrick Jones, to Present All-Day Workshop in Topeka, October 17

Patrick Jones will be presenting a full-day workshop, 9:00-4:00 on Monday, October 17, 2005, at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kansas. Jones is the country's best-known young adult librarian whose non-fiction book, Connecting Young Adults and Libraries, is the textbook for most YA classes in library schools. Jones has been a frequent speaker at library conferences, having visited all fifty states, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, but has cut back his speaking engagements to focus on writing. He is the author of Things Change (2004), a YALSA "Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers" 2005 award-winner. Jones has recently completed his second novel, Nailed, which will be published by Walker/Bloomsbury in Spring 2006.

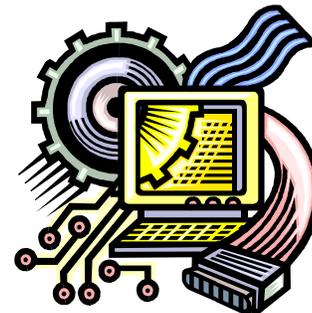
The workshop fee includes lunch. Seating is limited, so register early. The cost for NEKLS libraries (school, public and special) is \$30 per person, \$60 for non-System registrants. 6 CEUs. For information or to register, contact the NEKLS office at (785) 838-4090, Fax (785) 838-3989, or e-mail Carolyn Little at clittle@nekls.org

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 SCHOLASTIC



Technology Review

by

Nancy Wagner

Washington Elementary, El Dorado

Trackstar (<http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar>)

This Internet site has been around for ten years and still remains a great resource when searching for information. Browsing the 100,000 lessons of Trackstar by keyword, grade level, subject area or state standards makes searching for online activities easy. Trackstar is one of the first online sites that I recommend to my teachers when they are searching for ideas for novel studies, thematic lesson units, or general information. Each track contains different websites along with activities. The short introductions allow the user to find material relevant to their grade level. Teachers may also create their own "tracks" by registering at the site. Our district offered an after school class on how to create these tracks to familiarize our classroom teachers with the site. Other features the site offers include; Track Talk – an online forum, quizzes for your tracks, Track-a- Day – a fun track for every day of the year and Trackstar Tutorial to get you started.

Check it out today.

Nancy Wagner

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Free Churchill Biography

The Churchill Centre is pleased to offer a free hard-cover biography of Winston Churchill to high school and public libraries.

This distribution is supported by a grant from The Annenberg Foundation.

A full description of the book and the request form can be found on the website www.winstonchurchill.org, under Publications and Resources.

KASL members should use the code KASL5 on the request form.

For more information contact:

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The Churchill Centre

1150 Seventeenth St. NW, Suite 307

Washington, D.C. 20036

Kansas READ Week

Sponsored by Kansas Reading Association, Kansas READ Week can be celebrated by any group or institution wanting to promote reading.

The official date this year is January 29-February 4 (so it includes Kansas Day) but it can be observed any time second semester.

Everything you need to celebrate (including a poster) can be found on the web at:

http://www.kansasread.org/READ_Week.htm

Take a look at the site, bookmark it, and use it to plan your celebration in 2006.

Beverley Buller

Kansas READ Week Chairman



Kansas Learning First Alliance

The Learning First Alliance's new and expanded Practical Guide to Promoting America's Public Schools is now available free of charge on the Learning First Alliance website, www.learningfirst.org. Go to <http://www.learningfirst.org/publications/pubschools/> to see this new resource.

Substantially updated and expanded since it was first released last year, this new communications tool is designed to help educators, policymakers, and others promote the value of public schools to parents, the public, and your constituencies. The Guide is based on an extensive analysis of new data on voters' values, their view of public schools' mission, and their vision of a good public school.

The Learning First Alliance is a permanent partnership of 11 leading education associations collaborating to strengthen America's public schools. Alliance members are:

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
American Association of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Council of Chief State School Officers
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Education Association
National PTA
National School Boards Association

Lots of research into what people expect of schools, went into these recommendations. This is part of a concerted effort by those organizations that support public education to discuss public schools in a "progressive" manner. Be the first to spread the word...

(KASL is an active member of the Kansas Learning First Alliance.)



KASL-L. She will let us know what she hears back from AASL staff. At the state level, KASL will continue to explore this issue. On a personal level, there are a few things that each of us who cares about school libraries can do.

1. Continue to talk to your legislators and inform them that Library Media Specialists are instructional staff and that school libraries are “classrooms.” Point out that school libraries provide access to books and technology for EVERY student in an efficient, cost-effective manner. Continue to mention the research that demonstrates the effectiveness of good school libraries on student learning. Links to that information may be found at <<http://www.kasl.ws>>. Legislator e-mail and contact information is online at <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/legislatoridir.html>>.
2. E-mail the U. S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics. There is a place on the web to paste and send your letter at <<http://nces.ed.gov/webmail/>>.
3. You can pose a question directly to Secretary of Education Spellings at the following web address. <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/reform/teachersask/form.html>
4. Encourage parents to contact legislators and let them know that the school library is indeed instructional in nature. Here are a few points that may help them write.
 - A. I want my child to have access to a number of good quality books that she can read whenever she wants to. I know this improves her ability to read which, in turn, improves her chances at success in life.
 - B. The school librarian helps my child learn to dig out information and then to analyze its worth in order to produce quality writing and projects that demonstrate what he knows. He is learning HOW to learn with the help of the school library. As human knowledge grows and changes, he will have the key to find the information he needs when he needs it.
 - C. I want my child’s learning to be enhanced by technology when appropriate, and I do not want her to be penalized if we cannot afford a computer at home.

Those are the big three, but you may well think of others. I’m considering points like this on a card along with our legislators’ e-mail and links to the National Center for Education Statistics and the Secretary of Education. Something like that would be useful to hand out at a PEO presentation. If anybody comes up with anything particularly effective, please consider posting it to the KASL list at KASL-L@world.std.com.

5. This is kind of a delicate one, but Superintendents need to be specific about how they fill out the post audit survey that was sent to them. They should not assume that the categories listed are inclusive, and should list everything and everyone they need at the District and School level to make a school effective for student learning. Many jobs do not appear on that list at all.

If you can’t face all five points, just pick one or two and focus on them. Maybe if we all express our point of view, it will make a difference. I plan to continue to explore this issue, and I will keep you informed. Conversely, please let me know or post to the list if you find any approach that is particularly effective.

Professional Partners Program

Ever have the feeling that you're all alone? Wish you had a partner to help you solve some of your problems? Or, do you have so much knowledge and experience you wish you could share with a partner? Here's your chance! The Professional Partners Program is a pilot program being initiated by KASL. We would like to pair experienced School Library Media Specialists with those who may feel like they could gain from that knowledge. If you're interested in being a mentor or would like a mentor, go to www.kasl.ws and fill out the simple online registration form, or contact Peggy Golden at peggolden@hotmail.com.

As a mentor you might take your partner to a meeting, e-mail or call your partner during the year, share websites or articles that might help, find a mutual avenue of communication that works for your partner and visit your partner's library.

As a mentee you might go to a professional meeting if your mentor can't take you, ask for advice, explore new ideas with your mentor, find new ways to grow in your profession and visit your partner's library.

The rewards will be a mutual growth in your profession as well as a growth in the KASL.

William Allen White Awards Information

The 53rd annual William Allen White Awards will be presented Saturday, October 8 in Emporia. Stephanie Tolan, author of Surviving the Applewhites, will be present to autograph books and accept her award. Jerry Spinelli, author of Loser, had a prior engagement that day and will not attend.

Previous WAW winner June Rae Wood will read the acceptance speech prepared by Jerry Spinelli at the awards ceremony and will autograph her books on Saturday.

Past WAW nominee (Grasslands) Deb Seely will join June Rae Wood in visiting sleepover groups the night before the celebration and will also autograph her books on Saturday.

Deadline for WAW Awards ticket orders is September 15. Ticket order forms can be printed from: <http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/wawbookaward/misc/orderforms2005ceremony.doc>. Celebration details at the main page: <http://waw.emporia.edu>

Don't forget about the guides to the current William Allen White Awards lists which are easily accessible on the web. These guides are written by public and school librarians and the activities are tied to the state library standards. Find them on the web at: <http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/wawbookaward/curriculumguides/cg.htm>

For any of you interested in serving on the WAW Book Selection committee the application form has been posted on the homepage of the KASL website. If you are interested in serving, please complete the form and return it to Linda Roberts by mail as listed on the form or by email at lroberts@usd246.org by October 1st.

Bodacious Book-Cart Precision Drill Team

On May 28, 2005, a small group of Ida Long Goodman Memorial Friends of the Library formed not just a drill team, but a Bodacious Book-Cart Precision drill team for the St. John Jubilee Parade. This highly acclaimed team was made up of retiree, Anna Minnis, young (and pregnant) mother, Carolyn Dunn, two bankers (each local bank being represented!) Jo Carol Hudson and Brenda Reno, local business owner, Rita Taylor, substitute teacher, Casey Gatton and library clerk, Barbara Graves all led by librarian, Christie Snyder. The group boogied their carts adorned in READ posters and streamers around the town square in astoundingly meticulous form. At different times the crowd was admonished to CHECK IT OUT! and shushed. The 60's tune, "Wild Thing" kept the precision drill team working together. The group "wow"-ed the crowd, earning them the 2005 Most Creative Jubilee parade entry and was awarded \$25 for the Friends of the Library group. Thanks to all the drill team members for being adventuresome and a special thank you to Denny Graves for being our music man!

Christie Snyder, Director
Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library

[See pictures on page 12](#)

KLFA and KASL

Ann Schuster, Educational Organizations Contact

What? Another acronym to remember? Do I have to pay more dues to belong to this? What does it stand for- Kansas Librarians Forever Advocating (incorrect –but a worthy title-don't you think)?

KLFA stands for the **Kansas Learning First Alliance**, a partnership representing 24 leading educational institutions in our state, including KASL. As stakeholders in the lives of Kansas students it is the Alliance's vision to "make Kansas the first in the nation in teaching and learning". Representatives to this group meet 5-6 times a year in Topeka and each attendee works on one of three sub-groups based on the 3 major focus areas; Student Achievement, Professional Development, and Public Engagement. Diane Leupold generally gravitates to the Public Engagement sessions while I work with the Student Achievement/ Professional Development groups. Diane's group has been creating a Power Point presentation and planning some public service projects to inform Kansas residents about the group and its goals. My subgroup is just finished preparing publication of several "Quality Tools" documents to assist members of our organizations, as well as others, in viewing resources about content areas /standards, NCLB and other subjects of concern.

There are no individual dues to belong as our Association already retains a membership in the state, though not the national, organization. Participating in KLFA has been a real "plus" for KASL as it allows us to work with others in the educational realm who have an interest in the same issues we do. By working on common goals, we avoid duplication of efforts by individual member organizations. For example, one task this year will be to determine members' responsibilities in helping to make Kansas first in the nation in teaching and learning. This will be accomplished during our November Council meeting. KLFA member reps will then be bringing back that information at our future Topeka meetings to create a statewide document accessible by all, eliminating the need for separate position papers. Another collaborative effort can be found on one of the links on the KLFA website (www.teachkansas.org)- the Conference Information Center which gives dates and places for upcoming events sponsored by our participating organizations. If you would like to repeat that great presentation you've worked on for a District workshop or AASL, it's a great way to showcase what KASL can do with, and for, other educators.

KASL District Workshops

District I - Blue Valley North, September 17, 2005

District II - Hillsboro High School, September 10, 2005

District III - Eisenhower Middle School, Goddard, October 22, 2005

District IV - Schilling Elementary, Salina, October 15, 2005

District V - SW Heights, Kismet, September 24, 2005

District VI - Brewster, September 17, 2005



Bodacious Book-Cart Precision Drill Team Photos

